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TITLE: Communication unit and communication method with profile management

A collection of parameter data is called a profile and stored in a profile data base. The parameter data describe attributes of the communication system. An attribute describes a single piece of information out of a set of information belonging together. The attributes might therefore describe physical and logical entities in a distributed computing system, e.g. terminal devices in a terminal profile, network properties like quality of service parameters in a network profile or user preferences in a user profile.

EP 0 479 660 B1 describes a distributed configuration profile for computing systems, which is only used during the binding phase of a distributed application. The configuration profile contains interface identifiers, host binding information and related attributes, e.g. priorities. EP 0 851 696 A2 describes a method of wireless retrieval of profile information. The profile information is static and the structure of the profile is not disclosed.

The parameter data stored in the profile data base according to the present invention can e.g. describe the following attributes: a terminal used by a client, the quality of service of an access network, which is usually a wireless network, information about the user, the user's preferences, the configuration information about the distributed system, information about the current situation and/or information about the application currently used. The attributes are therefore related to properties, characteristic, a status, a desired behaviour, etc. of entities of the system. The parameter data can be accessed not only during the binding phase, but during the complete operation phase of the services. Thereby, the profile data base is used by applications or service components using a request/reply access to the data base to retrieve a single attribute or even a group of attributes with a single request so that a high performance is provided. The present invention applies to data services, e.g. internet services, as well as to telephone or voice based services.

FIG. 2 shows a block diagram of general elements of a distributed wireless telecommunication system, the components of which may be communication units according to the present invention,

The folder, the cards and/or the parameter data can be replicated through a distributed system, e.g. through a communication system as shown in FIG. 2. FIG. 2 shows a wireless communication system comprising two mobile stations 1, each comprising an antenna 14, two base stations 16, each comprising a communication device 18 coupled to an antenna 17, a hard disc 9 for storing a profile data base and a managing means 10 for managing the parameter data in the profile data base and for controlling the means 18 for reading and writing parameter data from and in said storage means and for transmitting and receiving data to and from said mobile

devices 1 through a wireless link 15. The two base stations 16 are coupled e.g. by connection lines 11 to network servers 19. Although a communication system is shown in FIG. 2, the communication system can also be a combination of a computer network and a communication system. In this case, the base stations 16 can e.g. be computer terminals, which are connected to the network servers 19 through the internet and exchange data with normal portable telephones over an GSM link. Although only the base stations 16 are shown as communication units of the present invention, also the mobile stations 1 and the servers 19 can be communication units according to the present invention.